the period from 1975 to 1988. Up to June, 1989 they have paid Rs. 6.62 crores. In respect of the balance amount of Rs. 5.23 crores, they have claimed deductions. The matter is pending for decision before the Supreme Court.

Income-tax arrears against M|s. ITC Limited, Calcutta

2991. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. ITC Limited, Calcutta owes Government Rs. 47 crore towards income-tax dues;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Company is required to pay the dues in 12 instalments;

(c) if so, how many instalments (with amount of each instalment) have been paid by the Company so far; and

(d) what steps are contemplated by Government in case the instalments are not being paid by the Company as per schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) I.T.C. Limited, Calcutta does not owe any income-tax.

(b) to (d) In view of reply to part (a), these do not arise.

Prosecution case against M|s. ITC Ltd. Calcutta for violation of Central Excise Duty

2992. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Government's decision prosecution against tax evaders can only be launched after the adjudication is over;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not launching prosecution case against M/s. ITC Ltd., when the Director-General of Inspection has passed the adjudication order against the Company on the 10th April, 1986; and

(c) what action is contemplated against M/s. ITC Ltd., when opinion of the Attorney General has also been received ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) As per guidelines, prosecution in Central Excise cases is normally launched immediately after adjudication proceedings are completed. However, if the assessee deliberatly delays completion of adjudication proceedings, prosecution can be launched even during the pendency of the adjudication proceedings.

(b) and (c) Director-General of Inspection, Customs and Central Excise, New Delhi in his adjudication order dated 10-4-86 had not quantified the amount of duty evasion against the company. Only the principles for quantifying the amount of duty evasion were laid down by him in his order. The question of quantification of amount of duty evasion became the subject matter of dispute and was finally referred to Attorney-General of India whose opinion has been received only in the month of May, 1989. Instructions have been issued to Collectors of Central Excise to quantify the amount confirmed in the aforesaid adjudiction order on the basis of opinion of Attorney-General.

Cost of Living Index

2993. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the figures of the cost of living index pertaining to the months of April, May and June, 1989 and the preceding twelve monthly average thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that prices of consumer goods have risen enormously during these months; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to contain the prices ?